

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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AVIV 21 APR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, SZ

SUBJECT: LIMITATION OF RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION IN
THE GENERAL DEBATE IN THE UNGA TO REPRESENTATIVES
OF MEMBER STATES

1. SUMMARY: AMB. LEONARD HAD USEFUL DISCUSSION WITH
GA PRESIDENT MOJSOV ON PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL DEBATE.
MOJSOV STATED HIS STRONG FIRST PREFERENCE IS TO
UPHOLD THE 1976 AMERASINGHE RULING UNDER WHICH
PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL DEBATE IS LIMITED TO
REPS OF UN MEMBER STATES, EXCEPT THAT AN OBSERVER IS
ALLOWED TO REPLY IF A MEMBER STATE'S REP SHOULD
MAKE STATEMENTS WHICH CAN REASONABLY BE REGARDED AS
JUSTIFYING A REPLY.

2. DETAILS: LEONARD CALLED ON MOJSOV 21 APRIL TO
NOTE DIFFICULTIES BEING OCCASIONED BY REQUESTS OF
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SWITZERLAND AND THE HOLY SEE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
GENERAL DEBATE DURING THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON
DISARMAMENT. HE NOTED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE
REQUESTS ARE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE AND WILL THEREFORE
PROBABLY FALL TO MOJSOV TO HANDLE AS PRESIDENT
OF THE SSOD RATHER THAN FOR CHAIRMAN ORTIZ IN THE
CURRENT MEETINGS OF THE SSOD PREPCOM. MOJSOV SAID HE

HAD DISCUSSED THE BROADER QUESTION OF UN-SWISS RELATIONS WITH THE SWISS FONMIN RECENTLY. MOJSOV BELIEVES THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT IS NOW READY TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR ACTION IN THE PARLIAMENT IN BERN TO SEEK UN MEMBERSHIP. WHILE THE GOS IS UNCERTAIN OF THE RESULTS OF THE INEVITABLE REFERENDUM, THEY ARE NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WILLING TO TAKE THE POLITICAL RISK OF A REFERENDUM. MOJSOV SAID HE HAS WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL TO SWITZERLAND AS POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME. HE HAS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT SWITZERLAND CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SPEAKING AT THE SSOD NOT IN THE GENERAL DEBATE IN PLENARY BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SSOD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WHICH WOULD BE CONVENED IN THE PLENARY HALL. HE WAS ALSO READY TO ASSIST IN AVOIDING OTHER PROBLEMS (I.E., REQUESTS FOR SIMILAR PARTICIPATION BY GA OBSERVERS WHO DO NOT REPRESENT STATES, E.G., PLO) BY LIMITING THIS SPECIAL TREATMENT IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO STATE REPS. HE WAS AWARE THAT EVEN THIS FORMULA MIGHT RAISE PROBLEMS OF ROK AND DPRK PARTICIPATION AND WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS. HE WOULD DEPART FROM THE AMERASINGHE RULING ONLY IF THERE WERE A CONSENSUS TO DO SO.

3. MOJSOV REPORTED THAT HE HAD URGED ITALIAN PERM REP
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VINCI, WHO HAS BEEN PRESSING PARTICIPATION BY THE HOLY SEE TO COORDINATE WITH THE EC-9 IN VIEW OF TRADITIONAL EC-9 SUPPORT FOR LIMITING PARTICIPATION IN PLENARY GENERAL DEBATE TO MEMBER STATE REPS.

4. MOJSOV SAID THAT HIS DESIRE TO AVOID ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE AMERASINGHE RULING WAS A PRINCIPAL REASON WHY THE CURRENT 8TH SPECIAL SESSION ON UNIFIL FINANCING HAS NOT HAD ANY GENERAL DEBATE. HAD THERE BEEN ONE, PLO PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE. SIMILARLY, THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL DEBATE DURING THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA, FOR THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BRING ABOUT SWAPO PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL DEBATE. INSTEAD, THE ENTIRE SESSION WOULD BE BUILT AROUND THE AGENDA ITEM "QUESTION OF NAMIBIA", ON WHICH SWAPO HAS ON EARLIER OCCASIONS SPOKEN IN PLENARY.

5. COMMENT: WE WELCOME MOJSOV'S ADHERENCE TO THE AMERASINGHE RULING. YOUNG

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